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Rewald Attorney Joins Belli in CIA Suit

By Charles Memminger
Star-Bulletin Writer

The case of Ronald Rewald took a new twist yesterday when his civil attorney announced he is suing the CIA with a flamboyant Mainland attorney, who happens to be representing investors who lost money in Rewald's company. "I expect to hold the agency accountable for all investors' funds," said attorney Robert Smith, at a news conference. Smith announced the unusual union with attorney Melvin Belli and admitted it amounted to a conflict of interest. Both he and Belli now will be representing Re-

wald, Rewald's company, and investor Ted Frigard, who lost \$300,000 to Rewald.

Even more unusual was Frigard's disclosure at the news conference that he has reached an agreement with Rewald to make a movie of Rewald's life and has already written a script and chosen a title, "Winter Dog." The title supposedly refers to Rewald's CIA code name.

Even the location of the news conference presented a sense of irony. Smith's office is on the 26th floor of the Grosvenor Center, sandwiched between the former offices of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong and

the present office of the trustee overseeing the court enforced bankruptcy of Rewald's company.

BELLI ALREADY has filed a claim against the CIA, as Smith has on Rewald's account. The next step, Smith said, is to file a lawsuit.

Smith said he could not reveal the amount of the suit, due to federal court orders, but he said it is a multimillion-dollar action.

He conceded that joining Belli is a conflict of interest.

"But the answer to most conflicts is that you disclose the conflicts to your respective clients and we've done that," Smith said. "Mr. Rewald understands that

whatever evidence he gives in this case can be used against him. Our first aim is to recover money for investors . . . Frigard can have full access to whatever Mr. Rewald says in a public courtroom and his attorneys will have full knowledge of the case. If that comes back to haunt him (Rewald) later, then so be it."

Frigard, a retired chiropractor who now writes scripts for movies and films, said he invested his savings in Rewald's company after being introduced to Rewald by actor Jack Lord. Frigard said Rewald offered to finance a film project if he invested and told him his company was con-

nected to the CIA.

THE FILM project, which was to have included Belli in the role of a judge, collapsed after Rewald tried to kill himself in August, Frigard said. Shortly after that Frigard and Belli decided to file suit against the CIA.

Frigard said he believes that Rewald had been working for the CIA for 21 years and feels the agency should be held accountable for investors' money.

Thomas Hayes, administrative controller for the bankrupt company, said yesterday that he has tracked down all significant deposits to Rewald's company and found nothing to suggest that the

CIA poured money into the company.

"No CIA funds were ever put into Bishop, Baldwin other than minor reimbursements. There is no case against the CIA whatsoever," Hayes said.

Smith said he thinks substantial sums of money put into the company came from the CIA.

Asked what that had to do with records that show Rewald spent millions of dollars in investors' money for his personal expenses, Smith said, "At this point I am not talking about what happened to the funds, I'm talking in particular about where they came from."

Producer blames CIA for Rewald company's failure

By Charles Turner
Advertiser Staff Writer

A retired chiropractor-turned-movie producer, planning to sue the Central Intelligence Agency for \$10 million, said yesterday that he blamed the CIA and not the jailed Ronald R. Rewald for the failure of the bankrupt Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong investment company.

The suit is expected to be filed by San Francisco attorney Melvin M. Belli.

Dr. Ted Frigard, who says he lost \$300,000 when the Honolulu-based company folded last year, told report-

ers at a press conference he believes that Rewald was a CIA agent in Milwaukee and in Honolulu for many years.

And he says he is writing a script for a movie — temporarily named "Winter Dog" — about Rewald in a dual role as CIA agent and investment counselor.

He said he was introduced to Rewald by Jack Lord, the star of "Hawaii Five-O."

Frigard said Rewald lent him money to produce a television show, "An American in Tahiti," and he repaid the loan.

Frigard said that he then got involv-

ed in a movie — not about Rewald — and that Rewald told him if he invested in the Rewald company, he would obtain financing for the movie. Frigard said he felt his investment would be safe because he thought the Rewald company was "a CIA proprietary corporation."

"Why would you want to invest money in a CIA operation?" he was asked.

"Because I thought it was protected," Frigard said.

He said he believes that Rewald "is involved in something deeper . . . a lot of things are going to come out." But Frigard wouldn't elaborate, explaining

that his attorneys didn't want him to say too much.

He said he did extensive research into Rewald's background.

"From my research, he's been with the CIA over 21 years," Frigard said. "I think he was paid for something. I think he was running a CIA proprietary operation."

Rewald is in jail charged with theft of investors' funds in his bankrupt company, unable to post reduced bail of \$140,000.

Rewald's civil attorney, Robert Smith, announced at yesterday's press conference that he had "entered into a joint representation agreement" with

Belli to pursue a claim against the CIA.

Smith admitted in a question-and-answer session that there might be an implied conflict of interest in Rewald and Frigard having the same attorneys, but he said the primary goal is to recover money which investors placed in the Rewald company.

"With his (Belli's) advent in the case, we have the resources we need," Smith said.

He also pointed out that as co-counsel, Belli would have access to confidential information now on file with the federal court which otherwise would be unavailable to the famed San Francisco attorney.